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USSR: Andropov's Foreign Policy Advisers

*General Secretary Andropov apparently is already forming his team of foreign policy advisers.* [redacted]

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Andrey Aleksandrov, Brezhnev's longtime assistant, has participated in several of Andropov's meetings with foreign dignitaries and continues to be identified as an "aide to the General Secretary." Another aide, Viktor Sharapov, participated in Andropov's meetings on Tuesday with Cuban President Castro and with the Yugoslav delegation. [redacted]

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Comment: Sharapov, a former *Pravda* correspondent, was Andropov's assistant before Andropov became General Secretary and was one of two aides responsible for the publication of his speeches and articles. [redacted]

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Pavel Laptev, the co-editor of Andropov's speeches, also may have moved up with Andropov. In addition, two of Andropov's former consultants, Aleksandr Bovin and Fedor Burlatskiy, could become more prominent spokesmen. [redacted]

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Other officials who could play a key role as foreign policy consultants include Vladimir Kryuchkov and Georgiy Arbatov. Kryuchkov--a longtime protege of Andropov--is head of the KGB's First Chief Directorate, which is responsible for foreign intelligence. [redacted]

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//Arbatov, who is director of the Institute of the USA and Canada, has been associated with Andropov since at least 1965, when both were in the Central Committee apparatus. One of Arbatov's deputies recently expressed pleasure at Andropov's selection, in part because he believes the institute probably will now have a greater impact on the Politburo's decisionmaking process.// [redacted]

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//The Institute official described Andropov as more pragmatic than Brezhnev. He also said the new General Secretary knows the West better than any other Soviet leader except Foreign Minister Gromyko.// [redacted]

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JAPAN-US-EC: Tokyo's Concern Over Trade

*//The Japanese are increasingly apprehensive about trade problems with the US and the EC.//* [redacted]

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[redacted] According to press reports, the Foreign Ministry will advise the new prime minister, who will be elected late this month, to visit the US in January to try to reduce bilateral tensions.// [redacted]

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Comment: //New Japanese prime ministers have tended to take some initiative to resolve problems held over from past administrations. An attempt to schedule such a visit would be in line with this practice.// [redacted]

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//Tokyo also may be considering another import promotion package to ease tensions. The Finance Ministry, according to press reports, already has added 13 items to the list of products slated for tariff reductions beginning 1 April. Other measures could include additional tariff reductions and quota increases, but these would fall far short of US demands.// [redacted]

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CHINA-USSR: Favorable Comments from Beijing

Chinese Foreign Minister Huang Hua, on his return yesterday from Moscow, told the press he had discussed with Foreign Minister Gromyko "ways of removing obstacles and promoting consultations" when representatives of the two countries meet in Moscow for the next round of talks. Huang Hua said he is optimistic concerning these consultations and reiterated that Soviet and Chinese leaders regard the talks as important.

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Comment: Huang Hua's positive statements, both before and after Brezhnev's funeral, indicate China intends to continue its dialogue with the USSR for some time. The Foreign Minister also implied that he and Gromyko agreed on procedures to expedite the bilateral talks. As a result, the session in Moscow may move beyond the exploratory stage to discussion of specific agreements.

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POLAND - WEST GERMANY: Responding to Western Conditions

//Polish Politburo member Czyrek last Sunday told Foreign Minister Genscher that martial law may be lifted as early as mid-December. According to a West German diplomat, Czyrek said the release of Lech Walesa, continuation of the Church-state dialogue, and the government's impending release of most internees show that Poland is regaining political stability. He also claimed the government would not push workers to join the new trade unions but hoped that 20 to 30 percent of the work force would voluntarily enroll. The diplomat stated Bonn believes Czyrek wanted to show that Poland has met "an essential part" of the West's criteria for resuming normal relations and that Warsaw would continue in this direction.//

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Comment: //The West Germans probably will react positively to the Jaruzelski regime's recent gestures and are likely to encourage other Western states to take a similar stance. Although West Germany has criticized martial law, it also has stressed the importance of economic and political stability in Poland. Moreover, the new conservative government in Bonn wants to overcome Warsaw's negative initial reaction to it.//

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LIBYA: Another Coup Plot

//The British Embassy in Tripoli reports that Libyan authorities early this month rounded up some 100 young Army officers who had planned to move against Libyan leader Qadhafi after his return from his recent trip to the Far East and Yugoslavia. The plan reportedly was betrayed by a senior noncommissioned officer. Qadhafi ordered the arrest of the alleged plotters several days before he returned to Libya.//

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Comment: //The story is plausible in view of the serious levels of discontent known to exist in the Libyan military. In the past year, there have been at least five coup plots or assassination attempts against Qadhafi, as well as several instances of widespread arrests evidently related to suspected plotting.

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the apparent increase in the number of attempts indicates the regime faces a growing threat. So far, however, Qadhafi's efficient intelligence and security services have been able to control the situation.//

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